



A FIREPLACE IN ONE OF THE OLD INNS. SHOWING INTERESTING PEWTER AND DUTCH OVENS.



THE LIVING ROOM IN FERNCROFT INN, DANVERS, MASS., BUILT ABOUT 1670.

THE PICTURESQUE OLD INNS OF NEW ENGLAND



ADAMS INN, AT MEDFORD, MASS.



SWINGING SIGN OF THE FERNCROFT INN.

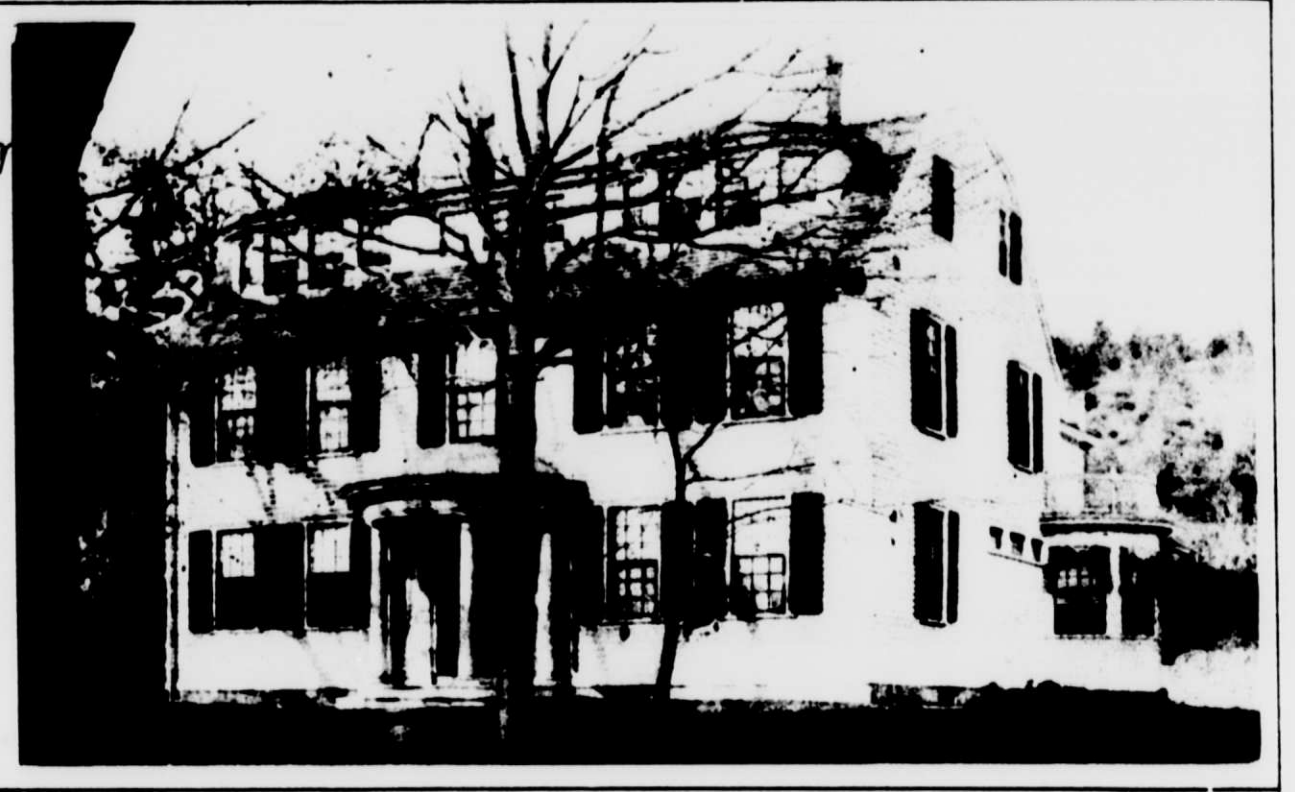
MOTOR CARS have brought new trade to the old inns of New England, especially those of Massachusetts, and antiquaries wearing automobile goggles are delving into their history, traditions and romance. There is plenty of material for the investigators. Take the signboards alone.

At Georgetown, Mass., is a sign bearing a portrait of Gen. Wolfe, but marked with the holes of bullets, some of which are still imbedded in the wood. The house on which it originally hung was built in 1640. Shortly after the battle of Lexington a company of Yankee soldiers were on their way from Ipswich to take part in the war. As they passed the old inn they spied the portrait of the General. Having they lifted their flint locks and riddled the sign.

The Bunch of Grapes Tavern in Boston had a sign baked in clay that was brought over from England. Part of it is still in existence. At the Wayside Inn at South Sudbury, Mass., is still shown the sign of a horse, while the Ferncroft, at Danvers, has a swinging sign hung from a rustic post that was used at the beginning of the present century at an old tavern in Topsfield.

Concord still shows the old Wright Tavern, which was a rendezvous for the English officers as well as the Continental troops during the Revolution. It was here on April 19, 1775, that in the tap room Major John Pitcairn remarked as he stirred his brandy and sugar: "In this way we will stir the blood of the Yankees before night."

The old L. P. Tavern at Byfield is used now as a residence. It was kept by James P. Piereson. After the close of the Revolution it was named Independence Hall. The account book used in this tavern is still in existence, and among the entries are many drinks charged to Lord Timothy Dexter. Dexter was an eccentric man who made a fortune by sending warming pans to the West Indies, the natives removing the covers and using them to boil sugar. It was he who wrote the book "Pickles for the Knowing Ones." In it there was not a single mark of punctuation, but the last page of the book was filled with commas, semicolons, &c., and the readers were asked to "salt and pepper" the book to suit their taste.



BROWN INN, AT IPSWICH, MASS.



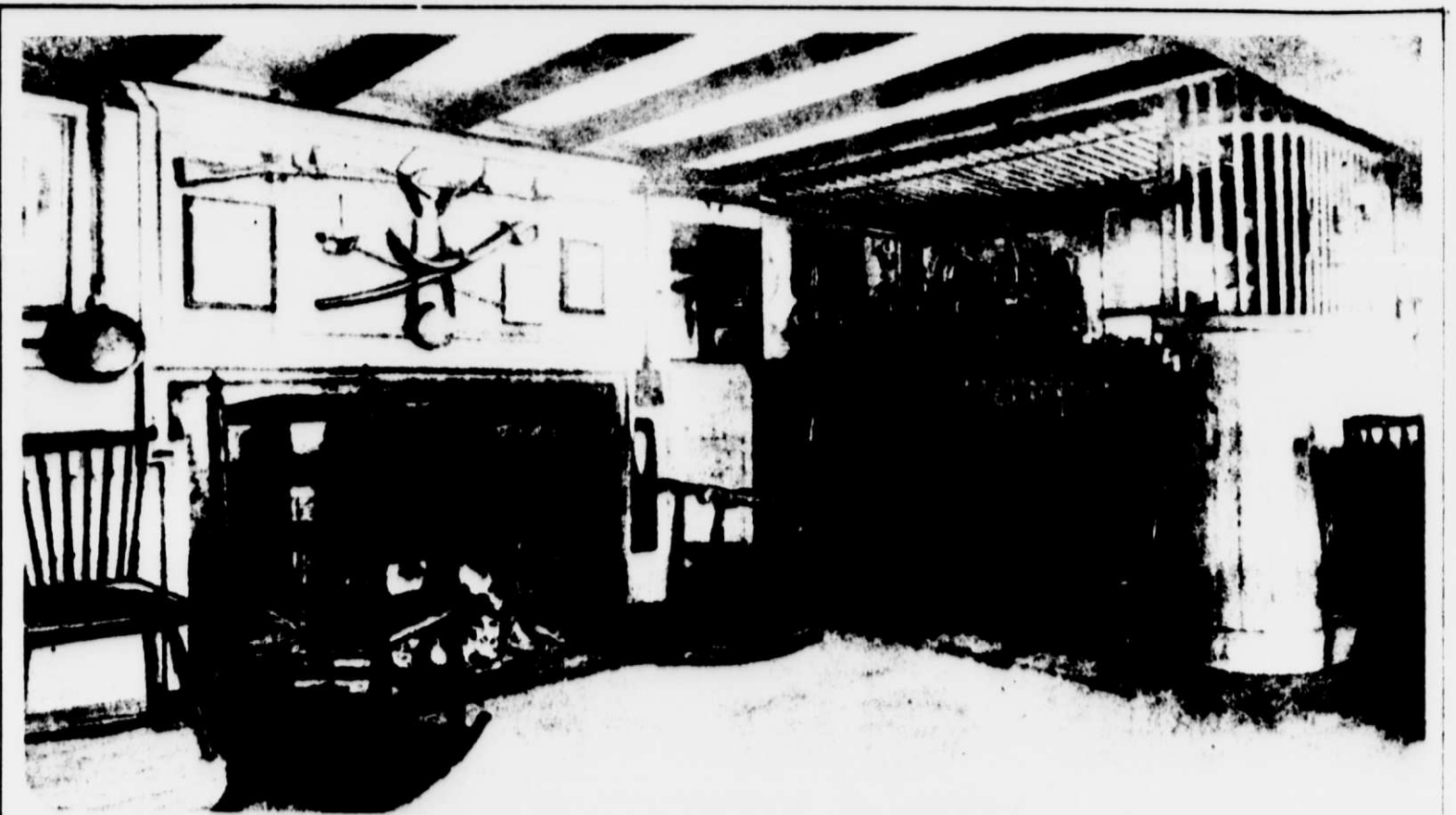
WRIGHT TAVERN, AT LEXINGTON, MASS.



EXTERIOR OF THE FERNCROFT INN, AT DANVERS.



THE WAYSIDE INN, AT SOUTH SUDBURY, MASS., MADE FAMOUS BY LONGFELLOW.



THE TAP ROOM IN THE WAYSIDE INN, WHERE THE TRAVELLERS' TALES WERE TOLD.